

HOUSE RESOLUTION 68

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Carylee Caputo upon being one of Tennessee's most esteemed educators.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize and commend our superlative educators who have given unreservedly of themselves to develop this state's most precious natural resource - our children; and

WHEREAS, Carylee Caputo, an English and Service Learning teacher at Cannon County High School, is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, raised in the small historic town of Schuylerville, New York, the site of the Battle of Saratoga during the Revolutionary War, Ms. Caputo took great pride in the important role her town played in this nation's cultural and historical heritage; and

WHEREAS, while participating in the 4-H Club as a young girl, she learned the importance of education and service to others at an early age; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh with a Bachelor of Science degree in English Education, Ms. Caputo spent most of her adult life in New York City, including two years as a dancer with The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; and

WHEREAS, moving to Tennessee in 1995, she began teaching at Cannon County High School in August of 1996; and

WHEREAS, an exceptional instructor, Carylee Caputo established several community service learning projects for her students, designed to enrich their knowledge and cultural

understanding of Cannon County and the role it has played in the historical record of this great State; and

WHEREAS, her military veteran projects and local history projects have instilled in her students a deep sense of pride and appreciation for their community; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, inspired by a class assignment in which her students collected childhood memories from several area residents over the age of seventy, Ms. Caputo and her class published the collected stories in the book *Old'uns' Stories told to Young'uns* and have used the proceeds from the sale of the book to award annual scholarships. To date, eight volumes of *Old'uns' Stories told to Young'uns* have been published and more than \$17,000.00 has been awarded in scholarships; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Caputo and her students established the annual Grand Cannon Historic Tour in 2006; during the annual event, three hay wagons tour several historic sites throughout Cannon County, which the students, dressed in period costumes for authenticity act as guides; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Caputo has engendered in her students a tremendous sense of pride through their participation in several military veteran projects. She and her students corresponded with a soldier in Afghanistan during the last six months of her tour, mailed boxes of "goodies" to the soldiers in the Gulf area, recognized the first group of purple heart recipients to return to Murfreesboro at a Veteran's Day Celebration, sponsored a lecture entitled "An Evening of Holocaust Remembrance" given by survivors and liberators of the German work camps during World War II, and honored local veterans from World War II and the Korean conflict in the third annual publication of *Old'uns' Stories told to Young'uns*; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Caputo has inspired not only her students through their many projects, but also the men and women who are the focus of those projects. The Staff Sergeant with whom her class corresponded was so touched by their concern and kindness that, after her return to the States, she attended as the guest of honor during the students' Veteran's Day ceremony; and

WHEREAS, possessed of a deep appreciation for her community, Ms. Caputo has participated in a host of civic-based volunteer projects, using them to teach her students the

importance of local volunteerism. Her students have landscaped a local nursing home, participated in the Angel Tree project, researched the history of their town and its people, and acted as “Kindergarten Buddies” to young students of Woodbury Grammar School; and

WHEREAS, Carylee Caputo is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who has worked assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, Ms. Caputo's friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Carylee Caputo epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest principles of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend Carylee Caputo for her exceptional service to the students of Cannon County High School, to the members of her community, and to this State and nation, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.